



# Utah Division of Wildlife Resources

Law Enforcement Section

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## Public Information Release

Southern Region  
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### Elk Roping Leads to Convictions

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Sevier County-

In March, 2011, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) conservation officers received a call concerning a bull elk that had been captured. Sevier County Sheriff's Deputies were nearby and able to stop a truck that was transporting the animal in a horse trailer. UDWR officers responded to the scene, arriving shortly thereafter.

The resulting investigation showed that two Wayne County residents had roped and dragged the elk and ultimately loaded it into a horse trailer. When questioned, the subjects stated that they had followed the elk to their trailer and loaded it because they were concerned for the injured animal's welfare. Further explaining that they were in the process of taking it to the local game warden's house.



**This bull elk was roped, dragged and placed in a horse trailer. It received serious injury as a result.**

Through witness interviews and analysis of evidence at the scene, it became clear that significant effort had been expended to "convince" the elk to enter the trailer. The elk sustained injury to one leg and it's mouth as a result.

Both individuals were subsequently charged with felony-level wanton destruction of protected wildlife in Sixth District Court. They ultimately pleaded guilty to reduced charges and were ordered to pay fines and restitution for their role in the incident. Additionally, both face the potential loss of their hunting privileges.

Though viewed by some as a harmless prank, or rite of passage, these senseless acts negatively affect the resource. Animals that survive these encounters can die as a result of the stress and injuries sustained. Utah's conservation officers are spread thin and rely heavily on public support. This type of behavior will continue until no longer considered socially acceptable.

If you are aware of a similar occurrence, or any other wildlife crime, please contact the UTiP Hotline at (800)662-3337.

### Additional Contact(s):

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